**Ethics Reflection**

Answer 2 of the following reflection questions; write at least 150 words on each.

1. How important is consistency in moral reasoning?
2. Does History show we have made moral progress?
3. Are scientists morally responsible for how their discoveries are used? Refer to one or more natural sciences as an area of knowledge?
4. Is ethics more a matter of the head or the heart?

Remember to use Key TOK language and refer to Ways Of Knowing and Areas Of Knowledge

1. History definitely shows that we have made moral progress. We just need to look at things like women’s rights and the slave trade abolishment to see how far we have come in bettering our morals. Women around the world are allowed to vote and now have a say in what happens in the world, are not only allowed to get jobs but are allowed to have the same or higher paying jobs than males. As well as this, they are thought of as more than just house keepers and child bearers and are respected as equals in society. 50 years ago things were much different and women were not allowed to do any of these things. They were thought of more as objects than humans and were treated as such. We can definitely see a progression in our morals in this sense. The other way, the slave trade, is also a good example of how our morals have developed over time. 200 years ago it was thought that packing hundreds of Africans onto a ship and carting them over to America only to have any freedom and dignity stripped from them so that they could work for people who were no better than them for absolutely nothing in return was perfectly acceptable. Now, of course, the vast majority of people would tell you that taking the right to freedom away from anyone is completely unacceptable – especially based on the colour of their skin. These are two ways that history shows that we have made moral progress.

4. I think that ethics is a balance of both the head and the heart. We cannot use only emotion to determine our ethics or what is morally right because emotion can get in the way of logic sometimes, and what may seem right in the moment (due to your emotional state at that point) may not *actually* be morally correct. As well as this, emotion tends to cloud our judgment and make us do things we wouldn’t normally – for example, we may say something that hurts someone’s feelings because we are angry, but on reflection we realize that it wasn’t right to say that; it was just in the heat of the moment. This is why we need to use our head in determining what is morally correct or ethical. We do, however, need to use our hearts and emotions to judge some situations – for example, we may go and help at an orphanage or donate things to it because we feel sad that children are alone and do not have as much as we do. We do what is morally or ethically right because of our emotional attachment to the situation. This is why I think that the best judgment of morals and the best ethics come from a balance of the head (reason) and the heart (emotion).